

Report to Partnership Meeting 12th September 2025

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

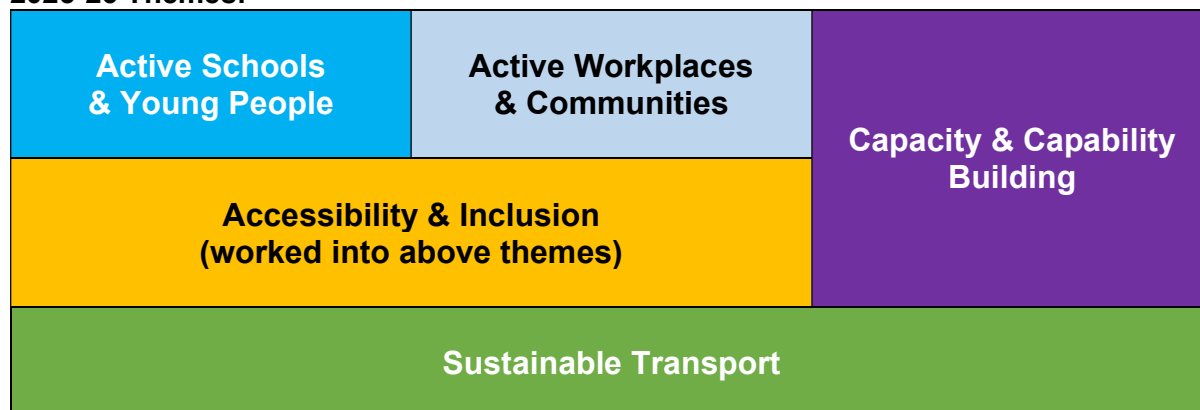
Purpose of Report

To update the Partnership Board on delivery of the People and Place Programme funded by Transport Scotland, and other Active Travel projects in which HITRANS and our Partner Local Authorities are involved.

- PEOPLE AND PLACE PROGRAMME 2025/26**

Our 2025-26 Programme is in full swing; this year we have a total budget of just over £2.4M for behaviour change activity relating to active and sustainable travel. At the end of Q1 we submitted a claim to Transport Scotland for £520,000 and the majority of the budget is now committed.

2025-26 Themes:



Active Schools & Young People

The Living Streets WOW walk to school challenge was delivered to 37 Primary Schools across the HITRANS area up to the end of the school term, with over 6,000 pupils logging journeys and an average rate of 84% active travel. Workshops and events were held for whole schools to educate pupils on road safety and mental health, and a Walking Bus has begun at Hopeman Primary in Moray. Living Streets were unsuccessful in recruiting any Orkney schools to the programme despite 3 primary schools taking part in Walk to School week, and support from our Behaviour Change Officer. This year's programme will focus resources on Moray, where there is historically good engagement with the Living Streets offer, and the Western Isles, where Stornoway Primary has joined the challenge and we hope to engage schools in other settlements with Active Travel Masterplans. We will also support Highland's four Behaviour Change Officers to roll out their Go For It Programme, and if successful this could be an alternative model for other Local Authorities.

Active Workplaces & Communities

Our **Transport Integration Officer** has awarded grants totalling £243,000 for our Cycle Parking Programme, to be drawn down over the next two quarters. Awards have been made to the following:

Temporary Cycle parking for Island Games (Orkney)	£3,116.70
Glaithness School Bike Store (Orkney)	£1,898.25
Deerness Cycle shelter (Orkney)	£10,000.00
Stromness Primary School (Orkney)	£2,600.00
Kirkwall Residential Centre (Orkney)	£13,972.00
Green Hive, Nairn (Highland)	£7,000.00
Whin Park Shelter, Inverness (Highland)	£4,618.00
Highland Council Programme	£68,400.00
Scottish Canals, Inverness (Highland)	£10,800.00
New Start, Inverness (Highland)	£9,960.00
ICT Community Development Hub, Inverness (Highland)	£13,935.00
Moray Council Programme	£93,287.00
Oakbank Community Inn, Sandbank (Argyll & Bute)	£3,170.00

We had a successful grantmaking round for our **Workplace Grant** in Q1, with the full budget allocated across 13 organisations. 17 applications were received in total, with 14 from Highland and one each from Moray, Western Isles and Argyll and Bute.

Accessibility & Inclusion

Towards the end of 24/25 we began a pilot scheme linked to the HI-BIKE offer, which enables people to join and receive a non-standard or adapted bike to keep at home and have sole use of for up to a year. Members are referred through one of our partners; Shopmobility Inverness, Lochaber Environmental Group, or Cycling UK's Inclusive Cycling Experience project. The pilot scheme currently has 4 members. We have experienced some challenges in sourcing appropriate cycles, but our referral partners have been helpful and offered support.

Our Access to Bikes fund, managed by our **Transport Integration Manager**, has supported 14 projects in the first quarter of 25/26, including:

- The purchase of 3 non-standard cycles for the inclusive cycling membership
- Grant to Able2Adventure for maintenance and management of their fleet of adaptive cycles and off-road wheelchairs.
- Grant to The Cairngorms Trust ACE e-bike project.
- Grant to North Ronaldsay and Stromness primary schools to purchase pool bikes.
- 2 eCargo bikes purchased, one for the HITRANS eCargo bike library and one for Badenoch and Strathspey Community ConnXions.

Capacity & Capability

Our **Behaviour Change Officer** in the Western Isles is supporting three primary schools to join the Living Streets WOW and Travel Tracker Programme – the schools are in settlements covered by Active Travel Masterplans developed in 2021/22. In May Leah organised activities with Stornoway Primary School to promote Walk to School Week, and has also undertaken Bikeability training so she can deliver confidence building sessions and led rides. Having a Local Officer in place in the Western Isles has been crucial for engaging

schools with the Living Streets programme, as there had been no engagement with schools in the Western Isles previously.

In Orkney our **Behaviour Change Officer** has been working with Orkney Islands Council to:

- Promote Walk to School Week in three Orkney schools; active travel themed books were placed in Orkney Library with positive feedback, especially for early years.
- Implement procedures and agreements to make existing Council pool bikes available for general staff use.
- Add active travel to workplace improvement agenda following a council reshuffle.

Our **Smart Travel Choices Officers** are offering funding to support local campaigns and events around active and sustainable travel, and also administer a budget to enable representatives from our Community Delivery Partners to attend events and receive training.

Local Delivery Partners

We are supporting 8 community-based projects as our Local Delivery Partners this financial year, plus the Cycling UK Moray Bothy project and the Cairngorm National Park Authority's Cairngorms 2030. Projects deliver across the three core themes of Active Schools and Young People, Active Workplaces & Communities, and Accessibility and Inclusion, as well as building local capacity. An outline of the projects funded is below.

Project	Location	LA Area	Amount	Description
ACT (Argyll Countryside Trust): reCycle Project	Lochgilphead & throughout Argyll	Argyll & Bute	£48,657	Provision of 60 free refurbished bicycles to children & young people across Argyll & Bute. Cycle service & repair on pay-what-you-can basis. On road cycle training, technical support, route planning. Cycle repair / maintenance / upskilling sessions.
Adventure Oban: Active Routes to Schools	Oban & Lorn	Argyll & Bute	£46,000	Dr Bike sessions linked to Bikeability; Active travel sessions in schools; Bike maintenance STEM sessions in schools; Support Live Argyll Active Schools to deliver Bikeability.
CNPA: Cairngorm 2030	Cairngorm National Park	Highland	£20,000	Contribution towards salary costs for the project's behaviour change officer, delivering: Cycling skills confidence building activities, working with the 8 primary schools in the Strath; up to 12 pop up cycling events in communities; Improved wayfinding.
Cycling UK: Moray Bothy	Elgin & Moray	Moray	£106,065	Deliver a range of activities including: Adult cycle training; Family cycling sessions; Cycling confidence sessions; Bike maintenance sessions; Bike loans; Led rides; Route planning; Support & engage with local businesses; Support Outfit Moray's Schools Programme as required; trials, loans and training for non-standard and adapted cycles in fleet.
Dunoon Community Development	Dunoon	Argyll & Bute	£11,000	Continuing the "Bothy" project previously operated under the Cycling UK Banner, Dunoon on the Move engages local people with active travel through led walks

Trust: Dunoon on the Move				and rides, bike maintenance sessions, and events.
Fyne Futures: Bute Bothy	Isle of Bute	Argyll & Bute	£46,000	AT & Changing Behaviour Action Plan; Monthly Dr Bike workshops; Fortnightly led bike ride; Fortnightly led walk; Weekly Incredible Edible walking activity; implementation of Communication Plan.
Lochaber Environmental Group: Fort William Bike Shed	Fort William & Lochaber	Highland	£91,500	Bike refurbishment & distribution; Access bikes referral scheme; Cycle training on non-standard cycles; Bike library; Volunteering opportunities in bike maintenance; SQA qualifications with Lochaber High School; Cycle training for young people; Summer "build your own bike" course; Support THC to deliver Bikeability & arrange Dr Bike sessions to coincide with training; Basic maintenance courses & workshops; Fix your own bike service; Cycle training for adults; Dr Bike sessions at workplaces; Fleet maintenance and staff training.
Outfit Moray: Bike Revolution	Across Moray	Moray	£75,810	Schools outreach inclusive cycling; Dr Bike sessions linked to Bikeability; Learn to ride cycle programme; Bikeability 1 sessions; Workshop bike maintenance classes; Bike Dr in the community.
Strathspey Pedal Initiative: SPIN Project	Aviemore & the Strath	Highland	£18,768	Part-funded by CNPA, will deliver 10 x school Dr Bike sessions; 8 x "Bike School" sessions at primary schools; 3 days maintenance provision at 2 high schools; 5 x half-day sessions at 2 high schools to support Nat4 Bike Maintenance programme; Week long MTB camp with Laggan Community Trust & Alvie Primary School; Free Velotech Foundation, 1, 2 and 3 certificated courses offered to all Primary & Secondary schools; Supporting CNPA "bike bus" initiative.
Volunteering Hebrides: Embark Project	Stornoway and Lewis	CnES	£40,570	Bike & equipment library; Cycle loans and trials; Fun cycling activities for children & young people; Bike skills & confidence sessions inc. women-only; Ride leader training; Supporting employers to be cycle friendly; Walking & wheeling groups & activities; Step count challenges; Walk leader training.

Sustainable Transport

We are funding RTPI across the region, and our **Transport Integration Officer** is funding sim cards for Moove Flexi, our Demand Responsive Transport app, the Glenfinnan Saturday bus service, and a local bike share scheme in Dufftown. We have also awarded a grant to Orkney Islands Council toward bus stop and waiting facility improvements.

The HI-BIKE scheme continues to run well, with a snapshot of stats for the first quarter of 25/26 below. The scheme is set to expand into Elgin in the autumn.

Memberships April to June:

Annual	Monthly:	Student Monthly:	1hr Pass:	Pay Per Ride:	Explorer (3 hrs):
6	219	57	351	364	481
Total Active users:			971		
		Total Number of Trips	Distance Travelled (miles)	Average Distance (miles)	
April		2,411	6,112	2.52	
May		3,291	7,358	2.23	
June		2,949	6,878	2.33	
Total for Q1		8,651	20,348		

- CAPITAL PROJECTS: ACTIVE TRAVEL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

There has been no response to our bid for 5 projects within the Tier 2 Active Travel Infrastructure Fund (ATIF) so we assume none have been successful. The £26M infrastructure funding announced earlier in the year was all for projects which had been submitted to the 24/25 round of ATIF funding.

Project	Lead Org.	LA Area	Stage	Est. Cost	Notes
lochdar Paths	lochdar CC	CnES	Construct	£850,000	Connecting school, housing and shop within crofting community on S Uist.
Skye Cycle Way	Broadford & Strath CC	Highland	Detailed design	£520,000	Key initial section of Skye Cycle Network connecting Kyleakin with Broadford. Consider design & build application spanning 2 FYs.
Skye Cycle Network	Edinbane CC	Highland	Construct	£1.2M	Edinbane section of Skye Cycle Network connecting village with campsite.
Ardmair to Braemore	Ullapool Community Trust	Highland	Initial design	£519,308	Design of 25km active travel route connecting all communities from Ardmair to Ullapool and onward to Braemore Junction.
Oban Interchange	Network Rail / HITRANS	A&B	Construct	£302,000	HITRANS project to better connect Oban transport interchange

- OTHER PROJECTS**

The Active Travel Advisory Group, bringing together our Local Authority partners and other partners and stakeholders, met in Stornoway in June with a site visit to the Embark Project and the new cycle parking facilities at Western Isles General Hospital. The group will meet again in early November.

The Active Travel Team Leader has begun work on a revised and updated Active Travel Strategy, with the intention of bringing a draft to the Board in the Spring.

Board Members are asked to note the report.

Risk Register

RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports both relevant RTS objectives and those of the Active Travel Framework.

Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Active Travel policies.

Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work is supported by Transport Scotland through the People and Place Programme (2025-26).

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment – HITRANS support for active travel helps eliminate the barriers to travel for all and makes walking, cycling and wheeling available to all, including by providing access to bikes.

Report by:

Vikki Trelfer

Designation:

Active Travel Team Leader

Date:

12th September 2025